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Director and Chief Medical Officer

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Chief Operating Officer

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
313 N. Figueroa, Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 240-8101

November 19, 2004

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Thomas L. Garthwaite, M.D.
Director and Chief Medical Officer

SUBJECT: **CAPITAL PROJECT NO. 86720**
ISOLATION/TUBERCULOSIS UNIT PROJECT

On August 24, 2004, the Board of Supervisors referred back to Public Works a Board letter which would have established Capital Project No. 86720 for an isolation/tuberculosis unit at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center and approved a substitute Board letter which established the capital project without a specific site, pending final project recommendations. In addition, Supervisor Knabe requested the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and the Interim Director of Public Works provide background information on the development of the original recommendation to your Board.

The CAO provided a written response on September 3, 2004, to Supervisor Knabe's request. This is to provide you with final recommendations on the capital project.

The federal funds available for this project can only be used for renovation, not new construction. The intent of the capital project was to renovate an existing ward, as an interim measure, until a permanent new ward can be established. An upcoming recommended capital project for the Olive View – UCLA Medical Center Emergency Room Replacement Project will include an isolation/tuberculosis unit, with estimated completion in 2008.

Department of Health Services (DHS) staff, in conjunction with the CAO, have reviewed facilities at all five County hospitals to determine if there are any existing wards for which conversion to an isolation/tuberculosis ward would be feasible, as an interim measure.

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Given physical plant constraints and the configuration of services at each of the facilities, DHS has determined there are no wards for which this is feasible.

DHS is recommending that Capital Project No. 86720 be cancelled. The Department will request federal approval to reprogram the \$1,692,000 of grant funding to other eligible projects in subsequent grant years.

In the interim until the ward at Olive View is completed, the Department will continue to treat the tuberculosis patients in the existing isolation beds at the County hospitals.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

TLG:js

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Auditor-Controller
Interim Director of Public Works